

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Fujio MORI et al. :
Serial No. [NEW] : Attn: Application Branch
Filed October 12, 2001 : Attorney Docket No. 2001-1552
SHEET FOR MOLDED-IN FOIL :
DECORATION AND METHOD OF :
PRODUCING MOLDED RESIN HAVING :
MOLDED-IN FOIL DECORATION BY :
USING THE SHEET :
(Rule 1.53(b) Continuation-in-Part
of Serial No. 09/147,890,
Filed March 19, 1999)

#9
12-28-01

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

With regard to new claim 1, the transparent acrylic film (1) thereof comprises only acrylic resin as its main component which clearly distinguishes over the prior art. See pages 6 and 7 of the Final Rejection of February 23, 2001 in the parent. Therefore, the prior art of the parent neither discloses nor suggests the above feature of the present invention.

With regard to claim 3, it recites that an elongation of "not less than 150%" is exhibited "under an ambient temperature condition of 110°C". On the other hand, the prior art merely discloses "during thermoforming". Thus, the essential condition of the film for performing the thermoforming is to exhibit a tensile elongation at break of not less than 150%. When the processing temperature is increased during the thermoforming, such a feature will be exhibited in most thermoplastic films.

In a case where an acrylonitrile butadiene-styrene film is a heat-resistant acrylonitrile butadiene styrene resin containing α -methyl styrene or high-crystalline polypropylene film of

elongated polypropylene film, such a film has a feature that the elongation of not less than 150% is exhibited upon increasing the processing temperature. However, such a film does not have a feature that the elongation of "not less than 150%" is exhibited "under an ambient temperature condition of 110°C".

In addition, if a laminated film is constructed by laminating the film of the above material over the acrylic film of the present invention, it is very difficult to set a condition for thermoforming processing. That is, the acrylic film or decorated layer is deteriorated due to heat at excessively increased temperature. The productivity is decreased because excessive amount of energy or heating time is needed for increasing its temperature.

Therefore, the prior art fails to teach or suggest the concept that the elongation of not less than 150% is exhibited "under an ambient temperature condition of 110°C", as recited in claim 3. Thus, the prior art neither discloses nor suggests the above feature of the present invention defined in claim 3.

With regard to claims 7, 8 and 10, in order to avoid the disadvantages of the prior art, the concept is introduced that the elongation of not less than 150% is exhibited "under an ambient temperature condition of 110°C" so as to select a film having excellent processability among films capable of being subjected to thermoforming, even though under any temperature condition for thermoforming generally used. As the specific material for accomplishing the above object, the polypropylene film is recited in claims 7 and 8, and the acrylonitrile butadiene styrene film is recited in claim 10.


In sum, the cited references fail to teach or suggest the technical concept that the elongation of not less than 150% is exhibited "under an ambient temperature condition of 110°C" defined in claim 3.

And, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the above feature of the present invention defined in claims 7, 8, and 10.

Favorable action is now requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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